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TAGS: TBIO KFLU ECON PREL SOCI CASC EAGR MX GM
SUBJECT: GERMANY H1N1 UPDATE: 2,455 CONFIRMED CASES

REF: A) Berlin 884, B) Berlin 880 and previous.

¶1. (U) SUMMARY: The net number of H1N1 infections in Germany rose by 637 cases to a total of 2,455 on July 23. The majority of new infections occurred abroad, mainly during travel to Spain. Experts expect more severe cases of the infection.
END SUMMARY.

¶2. (U) At its July 23 press briefing, the National Reference Center for Influenza at the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) announced 638 new laboratory-confirmed cases of H1N1 and subtracted one previously confirmed case in Schleswig-Holstein. This net increase of 637 cases brings the total to 2,455. New cases were distributed among fifteen federal states: Schleswig-Holstein (-1), North Rhine-Westphalia (340), Lower-Saxony (94), Baden-Wuerttemberg (29), Bavaria (83), Rhineland-Palatinate (15), Berlin (14), Saxony (13), Saxony-Anhalt (12), Hesse (11), Saarland (10), Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (9), Bremen (3), Thuringia (3), Hamburg (1), and Brandenburg (1).

¶3. (U) North Rhine-Westphalia remains the state with the highest number of virus cases among all German states with a total of 943 followed by Lower-Saxony (516) and Baden-Wuerttemberg (249 cases). Less than 30 percent (618) of all confirmed infections in Germany have resulted from domestic transmission.

Increase Mainly due to Holiday Returnees

¶4. (U) According to RKI, 528 of the 637 new cases were found in people returning from vacation, primarily from Spain.

More Severe Cases of Infections Expected

¶5. (U) RKI expects more severe cases of the new virus in Germany. Vice-president Reinhard Burger told media that an increase in the number of cases in turn increases the likelihood of finding more severe cases, similar to what other

countries have experienced. He said that at this point in time, it is not clear why certain infections are mild and others are fatal.

BRADTKE